

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SEP 29 2005

D SINCE 1877

BER 22, 2005

VOL. 129

No. 37

Donations to hurricane relief effort

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is currently accepting donations to fund the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief effort along the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on August 29. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fully 100% of the donations will be used for hurricane relief.

Baptists oppose gambling measures

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) is calling on Mississippi Baptists to oppose all measures that would benefit the gambling industry during the September 27 special session of the Mississippi Legislature that will deal with Hurricane Katrina issues.

"Our opposition to gambling in any form is well-documented, and that position has not and will not change," wrote CAC Executive Director Jimmy Porter in a letter mailed September 16 to all legislators. "We maintain that it is not a healthy and wholesome industry for our state, and the perceived benefits are offset by the hardships it brings to bear upon our citizens."

Porter staked out several positions in his letter to legislators:

- Casinos should remain over water, and only over water as state law now demands.

"Legislation last year gave casinos permission to build permanent structures in the Gulf. Time has not allowed this law to be implemented and already changes are being proposed," Porter wrote. "The fear of our constituents is that once the casinos are land-based, attempts to move inward to other locations will follow."

- A statewide referendum should be held to allow the people of Mississippi to vote on any land-based gambling proposals.

"Most of the 700,000 Mississippi Baptists, along with other non-Baptists, continue to feel that our legislators

Relief supplies arrive at Garaywa



Members of the Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team unload boxes of supplies at Camp Garaywa in Clinton that will eventually be shipped to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to supply the Southern Baptist feeding units currently on the scene of Hurricane Katrina's devastation. The Kentucky unit was stationed at Camp Garaywa for several days after arriving in Mississippi in Katrina's aftermath. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

Adopt A Church program set

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) has initiated a program in cooperation with the North American Mission Board that will match churches and individuals with Mississippi Baptist churches devastated by Hurricane Katrina in partnership-style, ongoing relationships.

Jim Didlake, MBCB Men's Ministry Director and the convention board's coordinator of disaster relief ministries, said the program is open now to Southern Baptist churches in other states as well as Mississippi Baptist churches that wish to partner with these devastated churches in the state.

Churches wishing to adopt devastated churches, and devastated churches willing to be adopted, should register as soon as possible by visiting www.mbc.org and clicking on the "Hurricane Katrina Information" crawl at the top of the page. Churches that fill out either form will be contacted within three business days, Didlake said.

"This will prove to be an ideal way to link hurting churches with churches being led by the Lord to make a substantial, long-term commitment to Kingdom work in the affected area. We know both the giver and receiver will be blessed," Didlake said.

betrayed their trust by bringing gambling into our state without giving them a voice," Porter pointed out. "We will be asking our membership to contact their senators and representatives asking for a statewide referendum to determine whether or not casinos should be land-based."

- Increase taxes on casinos to bring Mississippi in line with other states. "Mississippi's tax is the third lowest in the nation. If placed on land, insurance costs would be less; therefore, their profits will be higher," Porter stated.

- Share the gambling tax bounty collected by host counties among all 82 Mississippi counties.

"It is unfair for a few counties to have new schools, buses, band, halls, etc., while other counties struggle to meet basic student needs," Porter observed. "Citizens in all counties gamble; therefore, these other counties should be reimbursed for lost tax revenue due to monies spent at casinos."

- Reevaluate the role of the Mississippi Gaming Commission. "It is important to the integrity of the whole process... Recent statements and actions indicate a shift from regulating the gambling industry to promoting it. They are not employees of

the gambling industry and should not act as such," Porter pointed out.

"It is unfortunate that the gambling industry and its proponents are using the terrible human tragedy brought on by Hurricane Katrina to expand its own interests within our state," Porter wrote. "This is not an issue we pursued but one (from which) we cannot back down..."

Porter followed up with a September 19 letter to Mississippi Baptist pastors and church leaders, in which he called upon them to ask members of their congregations to contact their legislators to let them know of Mississippi Baptists' position against expanded gambling in the state.

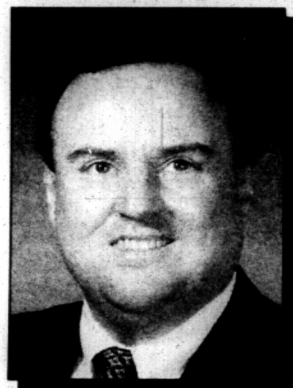
"It is imperative that you ask your membership to get on the phones now. We cannot walk away from this issue," the letter stated.

To obtain the name, mailing address, and telephone number of individual senators and representatives, citizens should contact the circuit clerk's office in their county of residence.

Information on individual senators and representatives can also be obtained at www.ls.state.ms.us, or by phoning the House of Representatives at (601) 359-3360 and the Senate at (601) 359-3229.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 37
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Special session: behind the scenes

The bodies of the dead haven't yet all been counted in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and the gambling/political complex in Mississippi is exploiting this human tragedy to advance their agenda in the state. What a disgrace.

As casino owners dangle before nervous legislators and state leaders the prospect of not rebuilding unless they are allowed to move their boats and barges on to dry land, Governor Haley Barbour has called a special legislative session for September 27 that is expected to deal in part with casino relocation.

In the parlance of gamblers, Barbour is playing his cards close to the vest. He has indicated that he will rely on the Mississippi Gaming Commission for recommendations on how to deal with the casinos rather than making up his own mind — but there's little reason to doubt the commission, a hybrid that both promotes and regulates the state's gambling industry, will opt for land-based casinos.

In an article posted to the web site of the Sun-Herald newspaper in Biloxi on September 15, Tom Wilemon reports, "Harrah's Entertainment, the largest employer of casino workers in Mississippi and the world's biggest gambling company, insisted on land-based casinos before committing to rebuild. Gary Loveman, the company's CEO, promised last week to build something 'spectacular' if the state dropped its dock-side requirement."

Wilemon also reports in the same article that Representative Bobby Moak of Bogue Chitto, chairman of the House of Representatives' Gaming Committee, says he is ready for casinos to "crawl out of the water."

The newspaper's web site also reveals a September 19 commentary on Hurricane Katrina recovery written by Senator Hob Bryan of Amory, which among highway rebuilding and other issues he opines, "Also, special provisions could be made for the use of existing casinos to use the sites where their hotels are located."

Where are most casino hotels located? On dry land, of course, even if Bryan and other officials like him can't

find the political courage to come out and say it.

Bryan goes on to state, "Obviously, it's not for me to say exactly what changes should be made in the laws governing casinos. Nevertheless, there's an opportunity to provide more suitable structures for the casinos without having casinos throughout Harrison County and without changing the existing tax structure."

One wonders why Bryan, whose district in far northeast Mississippi is hundreds of miles from the nearest Gulf Coast casino, would rush to publish such a proposal on the web site of the Mississippi coast's largest newspaper. The answer is there's too much money at stake, and state officials are addicted to gambling "revenue" to the tune of about \$500,000 per day that shelters them to a large extent from having to make unpopular decisions on budget cuts or tax hikes.

Given the gamblers' deep pockets, of course they're going to do what the gamblers want them to do.

That's where Mississippi Baptists come in. Mississippi Baptists have been opposed to legalized gambling from the start, and each of us should be

willing to contact our individual legislators before the September 27 special session to let them know how we feel about the ever-expanding influence of the gambling/political complex in Mississippi.

Tell them in no uncertain terms that you are opposed to legalized gambling in any form, and tell them you'll be personally watching to see how they vote in the special session. Also tell them that you expect a vote from them, not a cowardly "walk" when the time comes to make a decision.

Tell them how much you appreciate their service to Mississippi; they deserve to know that, too.

This is a moment in time when Mississippi Baptists have been called to action. Are we up to the task that has been laid before us? September 27 will reveal all.

Editor's note: To obtain the name, mailing address, and telephone number of individual senators and representatives, citizens should contact the circuit clerk's office in their county of residence. Information on individual senators and representatives can also be obtained at www.ls.state.ms.us, or by phoning the House of Representatives at (601) 359-3360 and the Senate at (601) 359-3229.

Amidst the clutter and debris left by the recent storm on the Gulf Coast lie the gambling boats. As casinos express "commitment" to the area and their plan to move inland, reopen, and restore thousands of jobs to Mississippians, we are faced with an excellent opportunity to make a good decision.

A special session of the Mississippi Legislature has been called for September 27 to consider our state's reaction to Hurricane Katrina. One item on the agenda will certainly be requests from coastal casinos to move inland. This subject is of a grave concern to all thinking citizens.

Many people do not see casinos or their tragic effects on the lives of people, and when something is out-of-sight, it is usually out-of-mind as well. I would like to call attention to the reality of the loss and suffering caused by the presence of gambling.

The Mississippi Gaming Commission (Gaming is a nice word for "gambling.") is quick to point out how much tax revenue is funneled into state treasuries and how many jobs are created by casinos, but there are huge losses more difficult to calculate. Many small businesses suffer losses of 10-30% when casinos move in. Theaters and restaurants are particularly hard hit and many of them close their doors after a few months or a few years of trying to compete with the glitz of casinos and

GUEST OPINION:



Stand firm against gambling expansion

By Nan Sugg
Missions Deployment Director
First Church, Jackson

inexpensive meals they provide to help lure gamblers. These lost businesses no longer provide jobs or pay taxes. Also note that many casino employees are not Mississippians, but are imported laborers from other states.

A study on the social impact of casino gambling commissioned by Wisconsin in the 1990s concludes that 42 cents of every dollar the state garnered was spent addressing problems of the pathological gambler. The study further found that demands on emergency services in towns with casinos tripled. In short, they found that while it is simple to assess the positive results of bringing in casinos (job and tax revenue), it is not simple to measure loss of productivity, child neglect, bankruptcy, divorce, addiction, suicide, and a myriad of other consequences that accompany casino gambling.

The National Gambling Impact Study Commission in 1997 found that the rate of pathological gambling — the addiction with the most nega-

tive consequence — doubles within fifty miles of a casino.

In October 2000 the Wall Street Journal published a story linking dramatic regional increases in drunken driving to a casino practice of offering free alcoholic drinks to customers.

In Connecticut Maura Casey reporting in The Day observes that casinos offer their employees excellent health benefits, free prescription drug coverage, and on-site day care, but annual pay averages \$30,000 — half what manufacturing jobs offer in the area. Ninety-five percent of casino jobs are minimum wage.

The Harvard University's Center for Addiction Studies reported that "at risk" groups are more seriously impacted by gambling than others. They found the poor and the elderly lose a significantly greater portion of their income to gambling than do higher income groups. On average, African-Americans lost two-and-half times more at casinos than Whites.

Many of us have heard the whispered reports that a business is closing is because the owner lost it at a casino, a friend gambled away her daughter's college education fund, a son lost the family fortune, or the neighbors are moving because they sold the house to pay gambling debts.

Mississippians voted several times over the years not to allow casinos on Mississippi soil. In 1990 our legislature passed laws that allow casinos to locate over water in designated areas of our state. Like leeches not on Mississippi soil but attached to the edges, casinos have made Mississippi the third largest gambling center in the U.S.

Peter Carlino of Penn National Gam(b)ling said, as quoted in The Clarion Ledger newspaper, "it would be utterly irresponsible to put boats back in the water." I agree with Carlino, but I say it would be even more irresponsible for us to allow them to rebuild at all. I had planned to suggest the casinos move to the hurricane-free state of Nevada, but my research has shown me that many Nevada residents are trying to close down gambling in their state.

Casinos serve no good purpose. They prey on the poor, they pull money away from legitimate business, and they cause heartache and grief wherever they go. Mississippians should implore their legislators to defeat any measure that would allow casinos to build on Mississippi soil.

SBC entities earmark disaster relief funding

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources authorized the company's executive leadership to utilize \$6 million in reserve funds to assist Southern Baptist Disaster Relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. recommended the action to the trustees' executive committee, which brought the matter before the full board of trustees September 12. The vote was unanimous.

The funding will begin immediately and continue throughout the 2006 fiscal year, which runs from October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2006.

"We will disperse these funds based on specific identified needs," Draper noted. "The expectation is that assistance will go to the state conventions in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, to states assisting in handling evacuees, and possibly to the North American Mission Board and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary."

An estimated 925 Southern Baptist churches in the three states were destroyed or severely damaged. The North American Mission Board is coordinating the SBC's relief efforts across the region. More than 5,000 volunteers are on site, feeding the hungry and working with other relief groups to provide housing and other basic needs.

Immediately after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in the worst natural disaster in U.S. history, LifeWay, an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention, donated \$10,000 each to the Baptist state conventions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

The Nashville-based non-profit organization continues to work directly with scores of churches in the three states to restore damaged libraries at deep discounts and to replace at no cost any dated LifeWay curriculum lost in the storm.

"We're partners in ministry with the state conventions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, but even more important, we're their friends," Draper said. "When their churches hurt, we hurt, and with these donations we simply wanted to provide a tangible sign that we are praying for them and standing beside them."

In addition to contributions to state conventions, LifeWay for years has provided disaster



NEAR TOTAL DESTRUCTION — At the remains of First Church, Gulfport, Morris H. Chapman (right), president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, reflects on the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. D. August Boto, SBC Executive Committee general counsel and vice president for convention policy, looks on. (BP photo by Norm Miller)

assistance to Southern Baptist churches impacted by natural disasters, fires, theft, and vandalism. For affected churches, LifeWay replaces 100% of the churches' dated LifeWay church literature for the current quarter and the following quarter.

The company also offers steep discounts for LifeWay undated church literature such as hymnals as well as Broadman & Holman books and audiovisuals, Holman Christian Standard Bibles, choir robes, Lord's Supper supplies, church furniture, and more.

"Our goal is to help churches continue to minister spiritually to their congregations while they get back on their feet after a disaster," said Mike Arrington, vice president of the corporate affairs division, which administers the company's disaster relief program.

Affected Southern Baptist churches are encouraged to call LifeWay's disaster assistance line at (800) 357-7029.

Meanwhile, a potential boost of seven million dollars for hurricane relief efforts could come from the strength of Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, announced September 12 a recommendation to redirect

beyond-the-budget SBC receipts to relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Contributions received for national SBC entities are distributed according to the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

The Cooperative Program is separate from the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Fund, of which 100% of monies go to aid the needy in the general public.

The Southern Baptist Convention's 43,000 churches met the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for 2004-05 on Sept. 12, providing the needed base of funding for the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, the six SBC seminaries, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and other SBC operations.

Chapman said he will recommend that all Cooperative Program gifts between September 12 and the end of the

SBC's fiscal year, September 30, go directly to disaster relief — a recommendation that was to be placed on the agenda for the Executive Committee's September 19-20 meeting in Nashville.

The receipts will be put to work in three ways: 50% for New Orleans Seminary, which suffered extensive damage from the hurricane and subsequent flooding in the city; 25% for the North American Mission Board, which coordinates SBC Disaster Relief efforts nationwide; and 25% for relief ministry by the state Baptist conventions in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, distributed proportionally to their needs.

A potential seven million dollars could be distributed, Chapman said. In addition, Chapman said he will recommend that the same formula be followed with beyond-the-budget receipts for the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget during the first quarter of the new fiscal year.

Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

VOL. 129

No. 37



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Hotline

(601) 292-3206

(601) 503-7517

(601) 672-2772

Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief E-Mail

mbcbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org

Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Information

www.mbcb.org

Looking back

10 years ago

A projected record turnaround in finances and a range of ministry successes highlight the Baptist Sunday School Board's 1994-95 year, according to President Jimmy Draper, who says, "The news is good. In fact, in some areas, the news is spectacular!"

20 years ago

Mississippi volunteers brush up on their Mexican cooking while the state Baptist disaster relief unit speeds to Mexico City to help feed thousands left homeless by a major earthquake in one of the world's largest cities.

50 years ago

First Church, Crystal Springs, votes to begin construction on their new auditorium, seating a total of 1075. The new auditorium will be in the colonial style and will be air-conditioned.

If the casinos are going to be allowed to move from the water to the land, **shouldn't the people of Mississippi be the ones who make the decision?**

The winds of Katrina were barely diminishing and the floods had not even started to recede when the buzz began about allowing the casinos along the Coast to move inland and be built more securely.

We all saw the pictures of the casino barges washed upon the beach, the highway, and even a hotel. The immediate talk was framed in terms of the state treasury needing the billions of dollars that come from casino tax and how we need to provide for the thousands of employees of the casinos so their jobs would not be in jeopardy.

The question I want to pose to our state leaders and legislature is not specifically pointed at either of those issues, although they are certainly important to discuss.

When casinos came to Mississippi, it was by virtue of legislative decision. The people of Mississippi were never given opportunity to vote on whether or not they wanted gambling in our state. Many of us asked for and even pled for it to be put on the ballot and no one listened.

Today, the laws in the state of Mississippi passed and put in place by our legislature are protecting the gambling operations all along the Mississippi River



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

and across the coastline. When the casinos came they came with the understanding and agreement that is where they would operate. Now there seems to be a possibility under consideration to change the game plans.

Whether it is speculation or just widespread consideration, there is the anticipation that Governor Barbour's September 27 special legislative session will approve one, two, or possibly a whole package of laws that will change the gambling landscape of Mississippi beyond recognition.

From the very outset, Mississippi Baptists have for the most part been strong in opposing the gambling industry being a part of our environment. Before a giant leap forward is taken by this industry in our state, I want to raise one question to our decision makers: *Since all of the people of Mississippi have not been given a voice in opening the door to this industry, before this change takes place will you now allow the populace of Mississippi to vote on whether or not they*

want land-based gambling? Will you let the people speak?

The legislature made the decision on bringing gambling into the state. In the name of fairness and justice, the people of this state ought to be allowed to say whether they want it expanded or not. This action has been taken regarding alcohol and beer sales and also in deciding the state flag. The expansion of gambling will impact our state greater than any of those issues.

If Governor Barbour's agenda for the September 27 special legislative session includes a push to change the law and permit land-based casinos, I encourage our senators and representatives to do a quick poll before they come to Jackson. Just ask folks, "Do you think it would be good to have a statewide vote on whether or not we should do this?" I may be the only person in the state who feels like this would be right and fair, but if others agree it might be good to hear from them.

I am certainly aware of the fact that we do not live in a

pure democracy, but rather we have a democratic republic which calls for us to elect representatives, who then are to express the will of the people. On the other hand, that very same form of government permits the same legislative body the means by which the people can directly state their feelings through the ballot.

The legislature has shown wisdom in the past in allowing the people to express their will by voting. I trust that they will consider doing so again before they make a dramatic change permitting expansion of gambling.

Mississippi has been hurt and in some parts even destroyed by Katrina. We must not do even greater long-term damage by making an emotional quick-fix decision which does not listen to the people.

So what can you do? You can kindly contact your legislator and let your voice be heard. To obtain the name, mailing address, and telephone number of individual senators and representatives, citizens should contact the circuit clerk's office in their county of residence. Information on individual senators and representatives can also be obtained at www.ls.state.ms.us, or by phoning the House of Representatives at (601) 359-3360 and the Senate at (601) 359-3229.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Churches should exercise caution in rebuilding

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

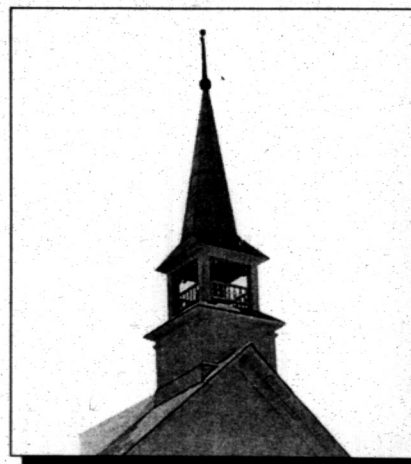
In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of churches in Mississippi are faced with the prospect of repair — some repairs being minor, others being a total rebuild. With the pressing need of providing places to worship, many congregations might rush into making unwise decisions. GuideOne Insurance, which provides insurance for many churches in Mississippi, counsels pastors and congregations in what to do before and after a loss. The following is

gathered from information provided by GuideOne, and is not intended to give specific legal or risk management advice, nor are any action plans intended to include or address all insurance or construction solutions.

Prior to any catastrophe, the church should have identified who has the authority to sign work authorizations on-site so that work can begin without delay in case of a disaster. Designate a person or committee from the church with the power to make quick project decisions. If this is not done, the building process can slow down and cost more.

The church should have on file building statistics, including year constructed, year of latest structural renovation, appropriate blueprints, plumbing information, any hazardous materials on site, electrical information, documentation on furniture, fixtures, electronics, valuable documents/ books/records, and other valuable contents.

Though many churches rely heavily on volunteers, when considering major reconstruction leave the work to professionals. Many times volunteers work beyond their expertise and improper workmanship is often the cause of construction failure and fires. In addition, if a building is destroyed



because of poor workmanship, the organization or insurance company wouldn't be able to collect from a reputable construction company if the work was done by volunteers.

When disaster strikes, it is appropriate to make temporary repairs to prevent further damage. Keep any damaged property for the insurance adjuster to review or examine. If the facility is not useable, make temporary arrangements at another facility. Keep receipts for all expenses incurred.

Be sure the church and anyone making repairs are clear on state and local codes. Every municipality has variations that if not met can lead to significant future issues and costs.

Protect the church financially. Make sure those making repairs show proof of

insurance with limits equal to or greater than the current policy, and have sufficient errors and omissions coverage. An organization also should ask for a certificate of insurance naming them as an additional insured.

Preplanning is essential for successfully minimizing any adverse effects of an emergency or disaster on a church and its operations. Emergencies and disasters can take many forms, including physical perils, work accidents, or deliberate acts of terrorism or sabotage. Potential emergencies also include medical emergencies, fires, menacing persons or weapons threats, and even bomb threats. Immediate response in a crisis can save thousands of dollars in reducing damage. It may also allow a church to resume normal activities sooner. Emergencies strike without warning, and churches are encouraged to compile a comprehensive information source to use in the case of disaster.

Repairing or rebuilding a church is an act of stewardship. Cutting corners that compromise the safety of the people and the facility does not bring glory to God. Finances are important, but the wellbeing of those who enter the facility is paramount as a church recovers from disaster.

Buses are provided for LifeWay by
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.
Franklin, TN • Since 1953

20' to 40' Models, New & Used

- 80 Buses in Stock
- 15-42 Passenger
- Trade-Ins Welcome
- We understand the Church's unique needs

Contact us today for friendly, helpful service
1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

"Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer"

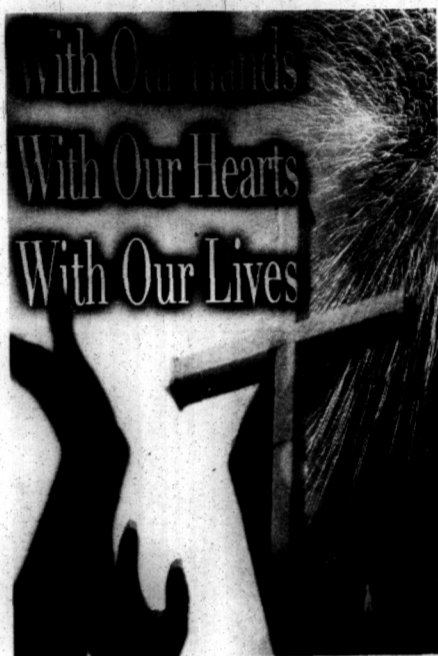
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 22, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



We Are Sharing the Song of Jesus

ACCOMPANIST CONFERENCE

FBC, Clinton • Mississippi College

October 7-8, 2005

6 p.m. (7th) through 2 p.m. (8th)



Registration fee: \$20 nonrefundable for adults
\$10 nonrefundable for students

Includes all materials, snack supper on the 7th, and break and lunch on the 8th.

Clinicians include: Carol Tornquist, Word Publishing, Nashville, – Piano
Mary Ellen Kerrick, composer, arranger, Duluth, Ga. – Organ
Wyndy South, MBCB, assisted by Lee Rider, FBC, Pearl

Subjects to be discussed

New repertoire for organ, resource class for piano (educational/repertoire), enhancing congregational singing, using the organ with other instruments in worship, the spiritual life of the organist, practice and study helps, improvisation and "spoodling," among others.

Just for students: Getting to know your hymnal, hymn reading, accompanying techniques for solos, children's choirs, youth choirs, etc. The conference will conclude with a time of worship and reflection.

For more information, contact Wyndy South in the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3272 in Jackson or by E-mail at wsouth@mbcb.org.



Theme

Special Ministries Retreat

September 30 - October 1

Camp Garaywa

For exceptional persons (12 yrs. and older), their pastors/ministers, parents, teachers & friends
GAMES BIBLE STUDY, SINGING, MOVIES AND OTS OF FUN FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!

CANCELLED

Registration... 3 p.m. Sept. 30...
the retreat... includes...
Cost includes... overnight...
meals. One...
campers of the... sex.

More info? Call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or
E-mail: jellis@mbcb.org

Contact person _____
No. of campers _____ M _____ F
No. of counselors _____ M _____ F

Cost: \$37.50 per person
Due by Sept. 15
Payable to MBCB
Mail to: Special Ministries
Sunday School Dept. PO Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

State Literacy Missions Workshop Rescheduled

The State Literacy Missions Workshop scheduled for October 13-15 at Camp Garaywa has been rescheduled due to Hurricane Katrina.

NEW Schedule and Contact Information

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

WHERE: Jackson (place to be determined)

WHEN: Friday, October 14, 2-9 p.m.

Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

COST: \$25 (includes newly published manual and meals)

WORKSHOP LEADERS: Martha Stockstill & Retha Mayfield

DEADLINE DATE TO REGISTER: October 10

CONTACT PERSON: Lisa Miller, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

1-800-748-1651, ext. 317, or 601-968-3800 • lmill@mbcb.org

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MBCB ("Literacy Workshop" in memo line)

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

WHERE: Lee Baptist Association, 2508 South Gloster, Tupelo

WHEN: Thursday, November 3, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Friday, November 4, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 5, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

COST: \$25 (includes newly published manual and meals)

WORKSHOP LEADER: Cindy Heimbach

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: October 20

CONTACT PERSON: Tammy Howard, P.O. Box 2640, Tupelo, MS 38803

662-566-1700 • lcb@lwo.com

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Lee Baptist Association

ADULT READING AND WRITING (ARW)

WHERE: Parkview Baptist Church, 712 McAlister Street, Greenville

WHEN: Thursday, October 13, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Friday, October 14, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

COST: \$25

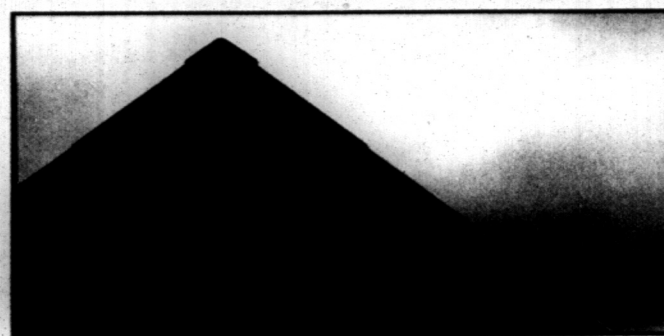
WORKSHOP LEADER: Joan Scott

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: October 10

CONTACT PERSON: Ken West, 1431 S. Colorado, Greenville, MS 38704

662-335-2862 • wcb@tecinfo.com

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Washington Baptist Association



NO LIMITS.

Set your
family on
the right
course!

Are you interested in:
A Fulfilling Marriage?
True Success and Significance?
More Family Time?
Meaningful Communication?
Equipping Kids to Choose the
Best?

MARRIAGE MAKEOVER

Feb. 17-18, 2006

Ridgecrest BC, Madison

COST: \$25

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JERRY PIPES

Author of "Family to Family" and
"Building a Successful Family"

Break-out Sessions on the Four Seasons of Marriage
Led by Professional Family Counselors

Also on Blended Marriages

Contact Glenn at gshows@mbcb.org
or 1-800-748-1651

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

Ministers' Wives Conference



Monday, October 31, 2005
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON
(Fifth Floor)
1:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Judy Gordon

National, state and local speaker
English teacher and wife of Keith Gordon,
consultant, MBCB Pastor/Leadership
Development department

Patsy B. Sheffield

Former MBCB ministry assistant
Pastor's wife (twice)
Married to Forrest Sheffield, pastor of
Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss.

Lori Schuler

Worship leader, soloist and songwriter
Past minister of music in several
Mississippi churches
Wife of Bennon

AGENDA

- 1:15 p.m. Registration: Fifth Floor of FBC, Jackson
- 1:30 Welcome, Introductions and Fellowship Greeting: Shirley Futral
- 2:00 Musical Inspiration: Lori Schuler
- 2:15 Judy Gordon
- 3:15 Fellowship
- 3:30 Musical Inspiration: Lori Schuler
- 3:45 Patsy Sheffield
- 4:30 Musical Closing: Lori Schuler
- 4:45 Adjourn

REGISTRATION

Preregistration is encouraged so that we may better prepare. You may register in one of the following ways:

Mail: Return the form below to:

Pastor/Leadership Development Department/MBCB
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205-0530

Phone: 800.748.1651, ext. 305; 601.292.3305

E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Fax: 601.714.7426

Name _____

Church _____

Address _____

Phone (h) _____

E-mail _____

For more info:
Contact Kay McDonnell
1-800-748-1651, ext. 305 or
601-292-3305



GA Missions Madness

Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Floods, Oh My!

Learn about Disaster Relief efforts in our state and the world!
Hear from a missionary about living through a tsunami!

Saturday, November 12

Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Early registration deadline is October 29. Cost \$8 per person (after deadline \$10 per person if space is available). Confirmation, directions and additional information will be mailed upon receipt of registration.

For more info: Call the WMU at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3316, or for registration info go to www.mbc.org/wmu/calendar.



Global Impact

C o n f e r e n c e

November 11-12, 2005

Sponsored by the Missions Mobilization Department, MBCB

Friday, November 11
FBC, Jackson, 425 North State Street

Network/Skills Conferences – 2 p.m.

Guests:

- Cleveland Hope – Bob Mackey
- New Hope New York – Bob Griner
- Pac Rim – two guests
- Peru – Boots Holder
- Presentations by the Church Planting Department – Ed Deuschle

Saturday, November 12
Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street

- Continental Breakfast, FBC, Jackson – 8:30 a.m.
- Devotional
- Network/Skills Conferences
- Adjourn – 11:30 a.m.

Banquet Cost: \$10

Reservations are
required by
November 4.

Either mail the form at
right or call
601-292-3398 by
November 4.

RESERVATION FORM

Missions Mobilization Celebration, November 11-12, 2005

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ No. of Reservations _____

No. attending conferences: Friday _____ Saturday _____

Please complete form and mail to: Missions Mobilization Department, MBCB
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

Pray this day for...

September 23-October 6, 2005

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." - Mother Teresa

E, an internal refugee of Colombia, was baptized just a few weeks ago and is the only one in her house church that knows how to read and write. God has placed on her heart the need to teach the children in her community how to read because there is no school to attend.

For: (1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (P/LD); (2) Discipleship Rally (D&FM Emphasis); (3) Pray for H and the many Muslim women like her who call themselves Christians because their husbands are.

Pray for D, leader of a small house church in a rural area near Bangalore, India. After recent training in sharing their faith, this group added 30 to its number. Militants have tried to disrupt the group, but D and the others have been firm. Please pray for them.

For: (1) National Missions Weekender (Training Conference), Ridgecrest, North Carolina, 28th - October 2nd, (WMU); (2) T, a West African Muslim man, has been taught that there are many paths that lead to God. Pray for T to understand that Jesus alone is the only way to God.

For: (1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (P/LD); (2) Beth Ann Williams serves as a consultant in Utah and Idaho. Pray for leaders of women in local churches, and for ministers' wives and families.

For: (1) State College Student Conference, TBA, 7 p.m., 23rd - 6 p.m., 24th (CLGM); (2) National Sunday School Directors Seminary, FBC, Brandon, East Campus, 9:30 a.m., 23rd - 12:30 p.m., 24th (LifeWay/SS); (3) Singles Missions LAB, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMU/D&FM/MM)

Josias Robledo, Jr., San Jose, Ca., is a language church starting strategist in the bay area. Pray for new works in West Oakland, for a merge in San Rafael with Mann Christian Church, and for the Manriquez family as they seek support for their new work in Millbrae.

Pray for the significant number of Arab seekers in Libya who have heard much truth but have not made a commitment to Christ. Pray for non-believers to be willing to discuss eternal truth, as well as for believers to be wise and encouraging as they encounter seekers.

When Christian workers provided a Buddhist man with a boat motor, to replace the one lost in the tsunami, they discovered the gift would actually be helping seven families, as he employs six other men. Thank God for the tremendous support towards the tsunami relief efforts by the IMB.

Volunteer L, working in the Cuenca area and looking for the deaf among the indigenous peoples of Ecuador, discovered a group near Tambo. Pray that deaf Christians in Cuenca will feel called to go and teach them about Jesus. Ask God to give the deaf people signs that they will understand.

For: (1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, Mississippi College, Clinton, 6 - 8:30 p.m., (P/LD); (2) Carole Ross is a full-time volunteer chaplain for the Texas DOC and director and founder of Cross Prison Ministries. Pray for doors to be opened and for restoration of inmates and staff to God.

For: (1) Student Day, Baptist Building, Jackson, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. (P/LD); (2) A family of believers has recently moved to a city in India with a large population of Jains. Please pray for them as they develop a strategy to bring the Good News to all Jains.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 5th - 7th; (2) Dan Barnes is a campus missionary at Central Arizona College working to start Bible studies on many local high school campuses. Pray for his efforts and that they would lead to opportunities to lead students to the Lord.

For: (1) Campers on Missions, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 5 p.m., 6th - noon, 8th (MM); (2) "Just getting to my focus group from where I live is a 15-hour bus ride," said one Christian worker in China explaining the hurdle of physical access to reaching lost people. Pray for him and others as they go to share Christ.



NOVEMBER

**All events planned
for Gulfshore Baptist
Assembly or areas affected
by Hurricane Katrina
are under
consideration
for rescheduling or
relocating.**

**SEE THE BAPTIST RECORD
FOR CONTINUING COVERAGE
OF HURRICANE KATRINA.**

MISS ALICIA MARTIN - 11-4-94
Parents: Tom & Cynthia
General Evangelism
Western South America

MISS BETHANY G. FORTENBERRY -
11-5-85
Parents: Robert & Margaret
General Evangelism
Southern Africa

MR. JACOB S. LIGHTSEY - 11/8/91
Parents: Tim & Rebecca
Literature Distribution
Middle America

MISS MARISSA J. BLEDSOE - 11-15-96
Parents: David & Laurie
General Evangelism
Eastern South America

MR. DAVID C. DOYLE - 11-15-03
Parents: Dwayne & Melissa
Community Outreach
Central & Eastern Europe

MR. NATHAN D. CARLISLE - 11-16-86
Parents: Jason & Susan
Church Growth Consultants
Global Resource Team

MR. TAYLOR E. HODGINS - 11-19-98
Parents: Ray & Cynthia
Sports Evangelism
Eastern South America

MR. CHUCK MULLINS - 11-26-98
Parents: Charles & Lynn
Church Planting
Western Europe

MISS JADI A. FOSTER - 11/27/00
Parents: Mike & Miranda
Strategy
Middle America

MISS LINDSEY J. PURL - 11-28-88
Parents: John & Amy
Business Management
West Africa

**Encourage a
MK with a
birthday card!**

PLEASE NOTE

Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.

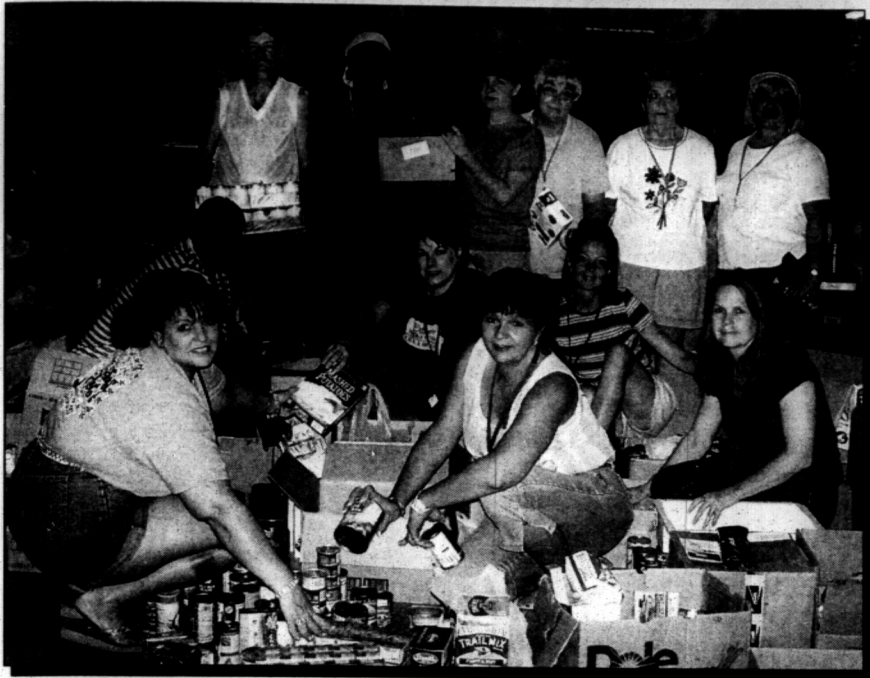
FOR SECURITY,

cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:

Child's name, Parent's name
MBCB Stewardship Dept.
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Distribution of food, Clark-Venable Church, Decatur

1. Members of Clark-Venable Church, Decatur, and other area churches help at a distribution center set up in the Hickory Furniture warehouse in Hickory. Items are distributed to those in the area due to Hurricane Katrina and also to coastal areas and shelters. Shown are some of the participants.
2. First Church, Columbia, recognized their first and second grade RA's. Shown are the participants.
3. First Church, Potts Camp, honored pastor Jim Buchanan and his wife Sherrill on their 10th anniversary of service at the church. Shown are the Buchanans.



2. RA Recognition, First Church, Columbia

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Antioch Church, Union: Homecoming, Sept. 25; worship, 11 a.m.; local talent providing praise and worship, 1:30 p.m.; Mike Trobett, speaker; James E. Young, pastor.

Belden Church, Belden: Homecoming, Sept. 25; worship, 10 a.m., followed by meal; evening service featuring Pure Heart; Greg Thomas, Corinth, speaker.

Beulah Church, Lexington: Homecoming, Sept. 25; praise service, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; afternoon program with Wilton Neal, 1:30 p.m.; Richard C. McMillan, speaker; Douglas L. Lawson, pastor.

Furrs Church, Pontotoc: Revival, Sept. 25-28; 7 p.m. nightly; Randy Bostick, speaker; Andi Wilhite, music.

Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba: Homecoming, Sept. 25; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal at noon; Orman Norwood, speaker; Harvey Vance, pastor.

Hebron Church, Sardis: Homecoming, Sept. 25; worship, 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon singing and reminiscing; Steve Jordan, speaker; Mike Britt, Andy Fewell, Roger Howell, and other former youth, music; Terry Tribble, pastor.

4. Shiloh Church, Calhoun County, held a recognition service Sept. 11 for all the elderly members of the church and community.

5. Erik Brewer, church planter in Moldova, was ordained to the gospel ministry by Calvary Chapel, Parchman. Shown are Elena Brewer, Brewer, and Joe Young, pastor.

6. Oak Grove Church, Benton, will host a reception honoring Darby Combs for 10 years of service to the church Oct. 2, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

7. Mt. Vernon Church, Newton, will host a gospel singing featuring Embrace from Brandon Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be received. Steve Pouncey, pastor; William Savell, minister of music. For more information call (601) 683-0849.

8. Bayou Talla Fellowship Church, Kiln, has been aiding in disaster relief work in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, with the church's auditorium serving as a distribution warehouse, Sunday School rooms providing housing, the front yard serving as a clothes closet, and a patio becoming an outdoor kitchen. A team from Florida serves about 300 meals a day, and the church serves an average of 1100 people daily.



5. Elena, Brewer, and Young, Calvary Chapel, Parchman

Boulevard Church, Southaven: Revival, Sept. 25-28; Sun., 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dr. P. J. Scott, speaker; David Taylor, music; Don Coleman, pastor.

Hope Church, Philadelphia: Homecoming, Sept. 25; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon; Dennis Duvall, pastor; William Crenshaw, music.

9. Tuscola Church, Lena, will host the Freedomland Quartet, Louisville, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 267-9943 or (601) 416-8597.

10. Rome Church, Rome, is hosting the Liberty Boys Quartet, Hamburg, Ark., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken.



3. Buchanan and wife Sherrill, First Church, Potts Camp



8. Disaster Relief, Bayou Talla Fellowship Church, Kiln

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Calvary Chapel Church, Parchman

1. Calvary Chapel, Parchman, enrolled 96 in their recent VBS. Shown are some of the participants.

First Church, Oloh: Revival, Sept. 25-28; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Jeff Coates, music; Eddie Parker, pastor.

Pearlhaven Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming and 100th anniversary, Oct. 9; worship, 10 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon music service; Doug Broome and Ronny Robinson, speakers.

Sunrise Church, Leake County: Homecoming, Sept. 25; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Robert Walker, speaker; Steve Turner, music director; David Addy, pastor.

Adopt A Church at
www.mbc.org

Buses for all Journeys... Great and Small

BusCenter.com

1.800.930.7144

- Providing a full range of both school and commercial buses
- Buses in stock ranging from 15 to 51 passengers
- Featuring safer body construction, higher passenger capacity and greater seating comfort
- Quality products, Competitive pricing

www.thebuscenter.com

Serving Bus & Van Ministries Since 1972

TransportationSOUTH Mid-South Bus Center

205.663.2287 615.890.6368

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

"I liked this trip so much...we're going back!"

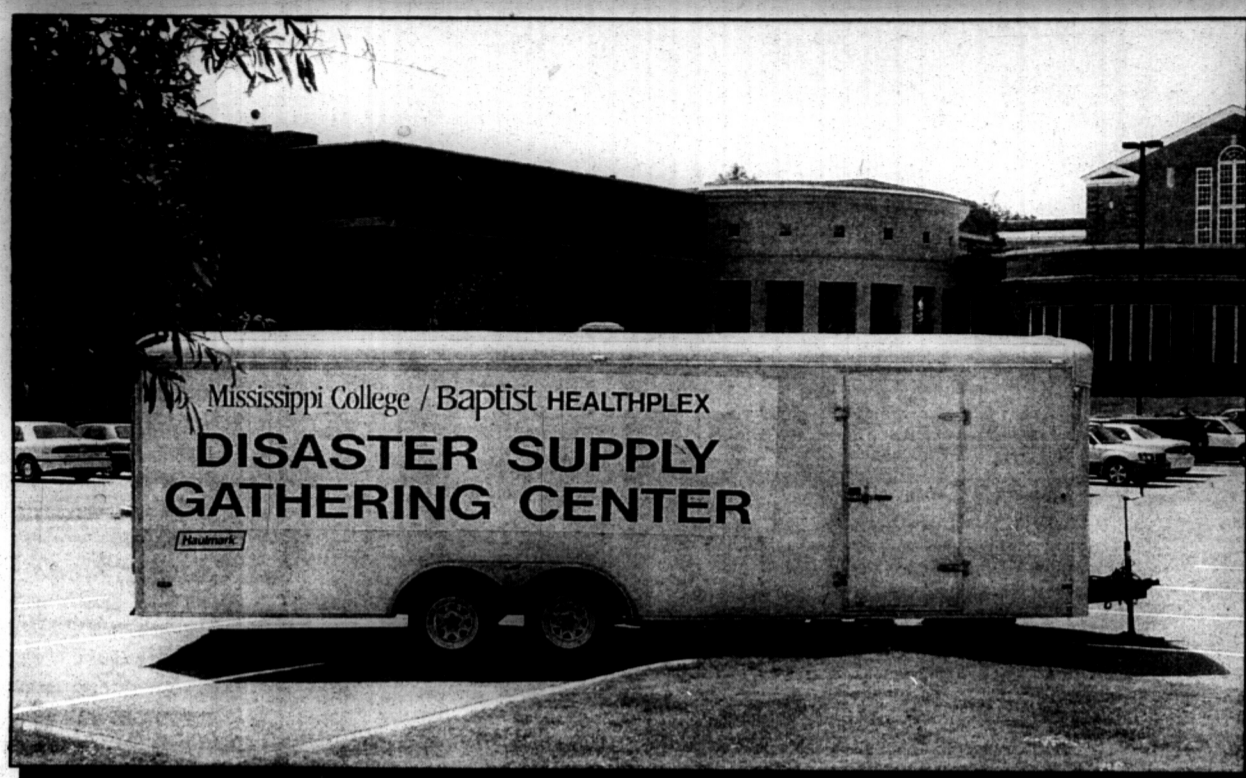
On July 18, 2006 join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Pastor Roy Meyers on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available for those in the group who wish to participate. Pastor Myers served for 43 years as pastor of several churches in Mississippi. Currently he is semi retired and serves as interim pastor at Double Springs Baptist Church in Starkville, Mississippi. Pastor Meyers and his wife Syble took this same trip in June of 2005 serving as Your Man Tours' Baptist Hosts. They look forward to returning next year as hosts for our Baptist group visiting the land of the midnight sun during some of summer's longer daylight hours. Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Volendam. Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay. After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily escorted sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; Yellowstone (Old Faithful) and Grand Teton National Parks; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$1998 (per person, double occupancy), including, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, and baggage handling. Add \$500 airfare from Jackson or Gulfport/Biloxi, MS; Birmingham, AL or Memphis, TN.

\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.
For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Meyers' letter call:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

Providing carefree vacations since 1967!

COLLEGE NEWS



Disaster Supply Gathering Center, Baptist Healthplex, MC

Mississippi College and the Baptist Healthplex are teaming up to collect much needed items for the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief team. Items collected will go toward those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The collection point for items is the Baptist Healthplex in Clinton. Items needed include travel-sized toiletries, baby items, hand towels, and cleaning products. For more information, follow the disaster relief link at www.mc.edu, or contact Christy Carley at (601) 925-3238 or 209-1794; email carley@mc.edu. Or contact Jan Cossitt at (601) 925-7900, or 941-7934; email jccossitt@mbhs.org.

MS POSITIONS

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, MERIDIAN, is seeking a full-time minister of music with some additional duties. Send resume and references to Dr. Keith Grubbs, staff search committee, 4579 Old 8th St Rd N, Meridian, MS 39307 or fax (601) 483-5491. Or email kgrubbs@gbnn.net.

HARRISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, TUPELO, MISS., (Lee County) is accepting resumes for Director of childhood education to provide leadership for min-

istry to children in grades 1-6. Resumes should be mailed to Mr. Gary Waters, committee chairman, 506 Lake Park Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801.

MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH: Center Hill Baptist Church, Hamilton, Mississippi. Resumes are being accepted for a full-time minister of music/youth. Send resumes to Center Hill Baptist Church, c/o music/youth search committee, P.O. Box 59, Hamilton, MS 39746.

PAID NURSERY WORKER needed for Wednesday and Sunday worship services. Please call (601) 854-8809, Pelahatchie Baptist Church, P.O. Box 355, Pelahatchie, MS 39145.

FIRST CHURCH, GLUCKSTADT, Miss., seeking a music minister for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights only. Blended worship, free-flowing format. Contact Author Comans at (601) 209-6000 or email authorcomans@aol.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS, www.gulfshorescondos.com. All size units available. Fall specials, 2 night weekend \$140, 4 weeknights \$200. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids) Good 9/6 thru 10/31, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 cents interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

"FOUR BY FAITH" GOSPEL QUARTET available for concerts in churches, Christian school fundraisers, senior citizen functions, etc. Call Ron at (225) 328-5961 or email us at fourbyfaith@bellsouth.net.

CAHABA STEEPLE CLEANERS, no exception to quality workmanship. Very reasonable prices, (334) 412-4411.

BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO, street level, 2 bedroom/bath. Sleeps 6, family

atmosphere, washer/dryer, furnished with all the extras. Please call after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, (662) 746-6702.

DISABILITY MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT: We offer several low cost plans to choose from. E. F. Hutton Insurance. Call toll free today (877) 232-0686.

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT: New plan, saving seniors hundreds a year! Call today and receive our free information letter on the new prescription plans now available to qualified seniors. E.F. Hutton Insurance toll free (877) 232-0686.

SALE: 2004 CHEVROLET 22 PASSENGER COLLINS BUS, 4,000 miles. \$35,000, (662) 562-0545 leave message.

TUSCULUM HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH in Nashville, Tennessee is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor through November 1. Please send resume to pastor search committee, attn: Michael Fann, P.O. Box 3056, Brentwood, TN 37027.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MT. OLIVE is now accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music. Please submit resumes to FBC, Mt. Olive, attn: search committee, 3200 Mt. Olive Rd., Mt. Olive, AL 35117.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MILLINGTON, TENN., suburb of Memphis, is accepting resumes for minister of recreation. Applicants must have a college degree and at least 3 years experience

in church averaging 1500 in Sunday School. Email resumes rray@fbc-millington.org or send to Rob, Ray, First Baptist Church, 5010 West Union Road, Millington, TN 38053.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MARTIN, TN, a multi-generational church in a university city setting, seeks full-time minister to youth and children. FBC embraces the BF&M. Maintains active ministries to senior high, middle school, and children, kindergarten-5th grade. Seminary training and prior experience required. Submit resumes to rsoldham@fbcmartin.org or FBC, P.O. Box 289, Martin, TN 38237.

SEEKING PASTOR: full-time or bi-vocational. Azalea Park Baptist Church and school is prayerfully seeking a pastor and leader. Seeking a minister with vision of God's future for our church and school. Degree in ministry preferred. Send resume and two sermon tapes to PSA, Azalea Park Baptist Church & school, 5721 Dahlia Drive, Orlando, FL 32807.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Live to Please God

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

By Kevin Ivy

Living with purpose comes from fearing God and obeying His Word, yet many are content to sit back in an apathetic stupor just satisfied to be saved from hell. As believers, we should ever be asking ourselves, how can I please God more than I do now? If this is the cry of your heart, the Apostle Paul provides a three-step plan to increase your potential of pleasing God.

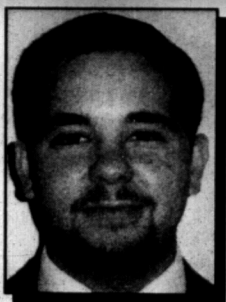
Desire to Progress (v. 1-2)

We should never think our walk with the Lord is complete, but should desire to progress in our walk with God. Paul extends three calls to the church with the hope of sparking their desire to progress in their walk with Christ. He extends first, an influential call (v. 1a). Paul urged the Thessalonians and exhorted

them in the Lord Jesus to progress in their walk. A command from Paul has some authority, but a command in the Lord Jesus has all authority and influence.

It was not only an influential call, but also an infinite call (v. 1b). Paul instructs us to abound more and more in our walk with God each day. We should never stop growing as Christians. We should never stagnate, for the potential for growth is infinite as we continue to progress in our walk with Christ.

It was not only an influential and infinite call, but an individual call (v. 1c-2). Paul reminded the church that they already knew the commandments and their responsibilities. They simply needed to desire growth. To progress in our walk with God is a decision we have to make as individuals. We must desire to please God above self, society,



Ivy

employer, family, and peers. We must decide to progress in our walk with God, because it is a personal individual decision that we will one day be held accountable for.

Decide to Pursue (v. 3-8)

After a desire to progress in our walk with God is birthed, that desire must be turned into an intentional decision to please God. Sanctification is the will of God (v. 3). Sanctification is being set apart from sin to holiness, thus it is the will of God for every believer to decide to pursue personal holiness.

Personal holiness is only attained according to the way of God (v. 4-7). The way to sanctification begins with believers learning to possess their own vessel or their own bodies. They should live their lives in self-control and in selflessness not taking advantage of others or defrauding others. They should live their lives as those who have been saved, for according to verse 7, God has called us to salvation, which is a call out of uncleanness to holiness.

Personal holiness is the will of God, accomplished only by the way of God, and is accompanied by a warning from God (v. 8). Paul is reminding readers that this is not something that he has devised, but is from God, thus rejecting holiness is rejecting God. The professing Christian who hasn't been weaned from the milk of the Word, who is content to spend life in spiritual pampers is not rebelling against the pastor, staff, or institution, but against Almighty God Himself.

Demonstrate Purity (v. 9-12)

Desiring to please God and deciding to please God is wonderful, however one must go on to actually demonstrate purity of character. Believers can demonstrate pure character by first living compassionately (v. 9-10). In First Corinthians 13:1-3 one discovers that eloquent speech, prophetic gifts, great understanding, generosity, and even martyrdom without compassion is worthless. To demonstrate purity of character, one must be compassionate.

Pure character is also demonstrated by living calmly (v. 11). Believers shouldn't be

busy bodies who generate problems, strife, or conflict but should be people who can rest in faith and in the presence of God even in the midst of difficulty and uncertain days. Believers should demonstrate pure character by being a source of steadfast calm even in the midst of chaos.

Finally, we demonstrate pure character by living consistently (v. 12). Believers should live the same outside of the church as they do inside of the church, especially when in front of non-believers. People who don't practice in public what they profess in private, shouldn't publicize their profession at all, for Christ is better served by no witness than by a bad witness.

How can we please God more today than we did yesterday? First, by desiring to progress in our walk with Him. Then by deciding to pursue a holy life, and finally by consistently, calmly and compassionately demonstrating a pure character wherever life leads.

Ivy is a pastor of Fairfield Church, Moselle.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

"Do You Need The Gospel?"

Romans 3:1-12, 18-20

By Betty Davis

Headlines of world wide newspapers read: "Thousands killed in Hurricane Katrina." What a terrible tragedy. Many areas were paralyzed without food, water, gas, and necessities. Phone service was little to none. Not even enough gas for mail service. That is critical. All this included McComb, Mississippi where I live.

The irony? People living in coastal areas were warned, urged, and eventually forced to evacuate their homes because of the category five Hurricane on its way.

But when they were warned, instead of heeding the warning, they waned. When urged to leave, they ignored the urging and showed unconcern. Finally, they were forced to leave by evacuation. When mandatory evacuation meant they were forced to flee for their lives, they

fled to hide wherever possible to say no and defy the authorities. Some are still remaining for various reasons. Who knows the outcome?

I grew up in South Florida so I know all about the severity of deadly hurricanes and the warnings that are given by the media. Warnings are ignored. That's sad.

It also makes me sad that people ignore the message of the gospel that is shared by Christians to show the way to God and eternal life. People are warned that they are lost without Jesus Christ. They are urged to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior giving their lives totally to Him. In response, they show a total lack of interest. And we cannot force anyone to become a Christ Follower. That is a personal confession of one's sins and a personal commitment to accept



Davis

Christ. Simple... accept, believe, and confess Christ as Savior and you will be saved; a Christian. That IS the gospel message.

1. GOD IS FAITHFUL (Romans 3:1-4) —

The Jews had not been faithful to God. They had received the spoken words of God, but they ignored God's word. Did the Jews have an advantage? Yes. God cared for them, but He expected them to be faithful and true to Him in return. If Israel had believed the word and obeyed it, they would have received Christ and been saved. May we never take God's word for granted. Not even the unbelief of the Jews would cancel God's faithfulness. To cancel would mean to take back a promise and God would never do that.

Paul's comment about circumcision was his introduction in explaining the real meaning of faithfulness... that of people being committed to God, whatever their race.

2. GOD IS FAIR (Romans 3:5-8) —

If you are "fair" in

your dealings, you will not favor one person over another. God is always fair. We should never question that His attitude toward sin disclaims His righteousness. Since God is righteous, and judges all people fairly, we should respond positively to His message of the Gospel. That means we must stay away from sinful acts.

Paul's comment in verse 8 concerning the thought that we should "do evil so good would come out of it and glorify God" evoked an exclamatory answer: "Their condemnation is deserved!" (Holman Christian Standard Version)

3. ALL ARE SINNERS (Romans 3:9-12, 18) — The question asked by the Jews: "Are we any better than others?" (v.9) caused Paul to say, "No, all are sinners. As it is written in the Old Testament, 'There is no one who is righteous — not even one.'" (v. 10) Verse 18 sounds like it was written in 2005, "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

4. ALL ARE ACCOUNTABLE (Romans 3:19-20) — "The law" as referred to in verse 19 refers to more than the Ten Commandments. "The

Law" included God's moral and ritual rules for Jews. Paul preached that every human being was guilty of sin. Laws were broken. Actually laws served as guidelines to help people become aware of times they sinned. Conviction is the word we use when we feel bad about something we do against God. You don't often hear it mentioned in churches any more. It's in the category with church discipline, I think. Paul used Old Testament scripture to clarify their conduct. "Everyone", he stated, was guilty! The law revealed their knowledge of sin. (v. 20)

While I was researching this lesson, God gave me this definition of the gospel in the form of an acronym: G=God's O=one and only S=source for salvation is P=perfect and personal E=exalting the L=love of God! Let's apply this lesson to our lives today: We are all sinners accountable to God for how we live and how we respond to the gospel. Do YOU need the gospel? Everyone does!

Davis is a member of First Church, McComb.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Columbus church answers plea for help

COLUMBUS, Miss. (BP) — The racks above the bus seats held oxygen tanks, bandages, and bottles of water, instead of luggage. IV bags dangled from twisted wire hangers above the heads of passengers.

The two buses from Fairview Church, Columbus, buses, carried a load like never before.

Two days after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Tommy Gillon, minister of senior adults at Fairview Church, agreed to drive a church bus down to Biloxi to pick up eight nursing home residents who were stranded in a personal care home just north of the coastal city.

"My mother is in Home Place nursing home here in Columbus and they called me to see if I could transport eight people from the coast back to their facility," Gillon recounted. "They had beds open and were willing to take these residents, but needed transportation."

Knowing that he would need to be self-supporting traveling into the area with no electricity and no water, Gillon started making arrangements for other volunteers as well as for transporting fuel and water. When he called Home Place to let them know plans were in place, he discovered the numbers had changed quite a bit.

"They had heard that there were more people at this nursing home [in Biloxi] than they thought. They also told me I would need to bring back equipment like wheelchairs and oxygen tanks," Gillon said.

Another phone call came before the crew left. This one offered more beds if Gillon could transport the added patients to Arkansas. He agreed.

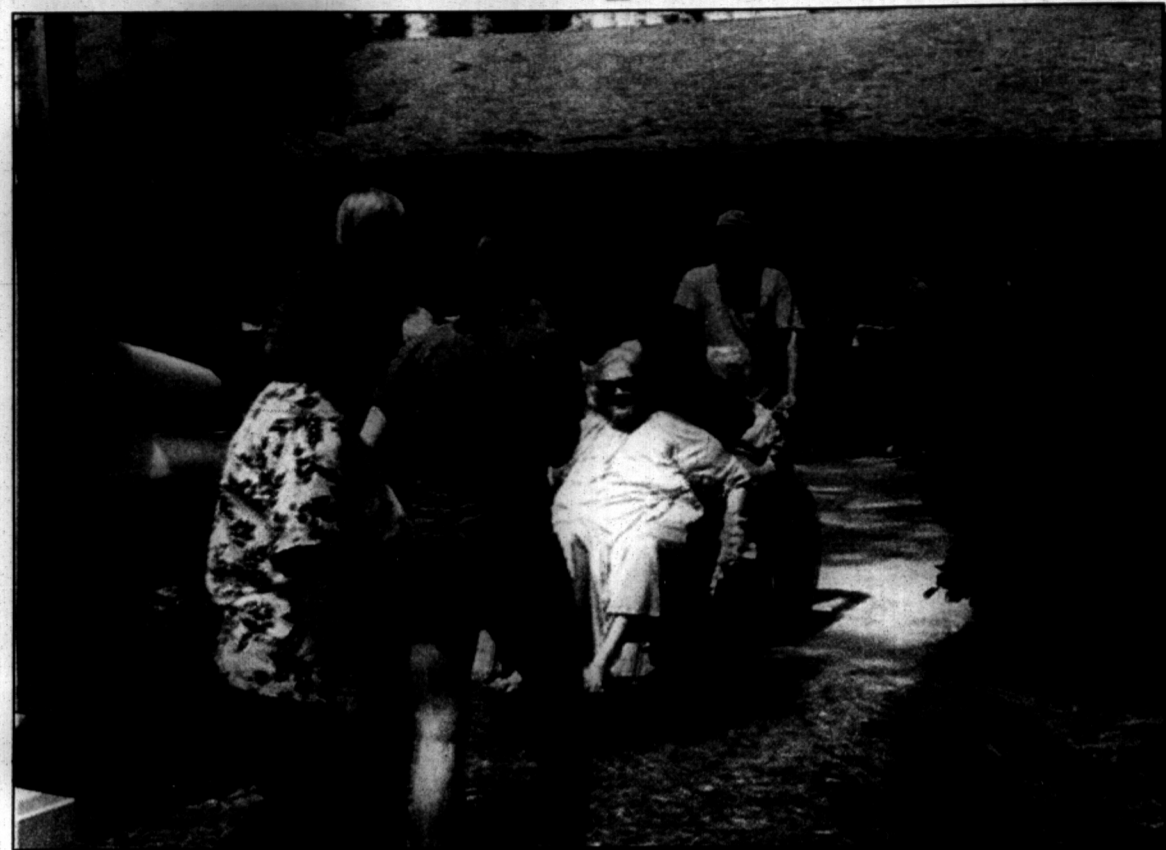
The next day, five volunteers pulled out with two buses — one capable of carrying 34 passengers; the other, 21 passengers — and a pickup truck full of equipment and supplies.

It took less than six hours for the crew to arrive at Ramsey Springs Village in Perkinston. It would take 17 hours to return.

"When we got there, we found a place that houses 12 people, but they had 48 patients who had been evacuated to their facility. They had no electricity or water for three days. They were everywhere. We had to figure out who was going where," Gillon recounted.

Without toilet facilities, most had sat in their own waste for days. Many were dehydrated and ill. All of them were frightened.

The volunteer nurses started IVs on patients who were obviously dehydrated. Gillon started breaking coat hangers to twist them into makeshift hooks for the IV bags. Others passed out water and ice.



MISSION OF MERCY — Nursing home residents near Biloxi are loaded into one of the two buses sent by Fairview Church, Columbus, on a mission of mercy three days after Hurricane Katrina's landfall. (BP photo courtesy of Tommy Gillon/Fairview Church)

The buses didn't have room for everyone and all the equipment, but Gillon decided to take everybody anyway. "We decided to leave the wheelchairs and suitcases, but we took everybody. The volunteers had to stand all the way home," he said.

The Alzheimer's patients were another challenge. "They were very confused, some were panicked. They fought the workers, telling them they wanted to go home."

Once the buses had been refueled and all the patients loaded, the group headed for Columbus, "but we had to stop in Hattiesburg because one of the patients was diabetic and became ill," Gillon said.

A nurse decided to call an ambulance for help, but the ambulance had no insulin. Instead, the emergency workers escorted the bus into Wesley Medical Center in Hattiesburg.

"You can say what you want about FEMA, but they had set up in this hospital and they sent doctors and nurses out to our bus and took care of everyone," Gillon said. "They were great."

The other bus headed on to Columbus but Gillon, who was driving

the second bus, had to head for Arkansas where there were enough beds for the last group of the patients.

"We stopped at a Holiday Inn and used their restrooms. They did everything they could to help us, but it took 17 hours to get to Arkansas and I had the Alzheimer's patients," Gillon said.

When the bus finally arrived, the trip still wasn't over. The Alzheimer's patients refused to get off the bus. "We didn't expect that," Gillon admitted. "They just refused to move. It took us an hour to get them off the bus."

Back home and rested, Gillon was amazed at what they had done. "I looked back and just couldn't see how we ever did that. It was just with God's help. That's all. We could never have done it on our own."

A few days later Gillon went to visit his mother at Home Place nursing home. When he walked in he saw eight of the patients he had helped transport.

"They were clean and smiling and eating breakfast. That's when it hit me. We did the right thing," he said.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

CS ECKE CKEC KX SKU,
DSE CVY CSKU ICKE ECS
HNVUVE HKVEC PXEL ECS
TCPUTCSH; CS ECKE
LOSUTLYSEC HCKDD XLE
FS CPUE LA ECS HSTLXR
RSKEC.

USOSDKEVLX EIL: SDSOSX

Clue: C = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Timothy Four: One.

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Kosciusko, has called Anne S. Cramer as minister of childhood ministries. She will coordinate ministries for preschoolers, children, and their parents. Barry C. Corbett, pastor.



McAdams Church, McAdams, has called James Young as pastor. Young and his wife, Guinevere, served for 34 years as missionaries in Bangladesh before retirement.

Hickory Ridge Church, Florence, has called Terry Fant as pastor.

NOBTS forging ahead with fall class schedule

ATLANTA (BP) — Despite the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina on the New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) campus, the fall semester will continue, Provost Steve Lemke said.

"We don't want this tragedy to delay the graduation of any of our students," Lemke said. "We are going forward with fall semester classes and we are going forward with December graduation, so all our students can keep on track for their graduation."

Classes have continued as usual at the seminary's 17 extension centers, but New Orleans campus classes also will continue through five delivery systems. The NOBTS faculty met recently in Fort Worth to design a way to keep classes going regardless of where students are located.

Beginning October 3, most courses that were offered this fall on the main campus will resume as reformatted independent directed study courses supplemented with online discussions. The seminary's Blackboard program allows students to access a secure Internet site for discussions with others in the class.

The revised class schedule will be posted on the seminary's website (www.nobts.edu) this week.

"Most of our main campus classes will be completed in this Internet-assisted format," Lemke said. "All of our students are equidistant from our campus, wherever they have gone after the storm, because our campus is now the Internet."

"Even students whose computers were damaged by the

storm can get Internet access at a local library, their church, or the home of a friend."

Four other course options are available to help students complete the semester:

- Students may join any of the seminary's Internet courses without additional fees.
- Students may attend October academic workshops in Atlanta or other extension center sites, with free housing being made available for New Orleans campus students.
- Students may join Saturday classes meeting in Atlanta and other extension center sites.
- Students may transfer to one of the school's 17 extension centers to take courses.

Already more than 300 students have transferred to the

North Georgia extension center near Atlanta, with rent-free housing provided for most of them.

Students may use any mix of these methods to complete the semester, with the seminary waiving some of the extra fees normally associated with these non-traditional course delivery systems. Main campus students can participate in any combination of the course options (up to 18 hours).

"We are very confident that through some combination of these five delivery systems, every student can complete a fulltime load at NOBTS this semester," Lemke said.

Extension centers and professional doctoral programs continue as scheduled without disruption.